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Resolving the 150-year-old homonymy of *Laranda*: A new name for the cricket genus (Orthoptera: Phalangopsidae: Paragryllinae)

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The genus name *Laranda* presents a notable example of zoological homonymy that necessitates nomenclatural action according to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1999). The polychaete genus *Laranda* was originally established by Kinberg in 1865, with brief descriptions based on specimens collected by Swedish expeditions, and currently encompasses species such as *Laranda gracilis* Kingberg, 1865 and *Laranda sulcata* Kingberg, 1865. Kinberg's material set a precedent in marine annelid taxonomy, substantiated by subsequent cataloging efforts and referenced in global databases such as the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS)(Ahyong *et al.* 2025).

Walker (1869) inadvertently created a junior homonym when he described a distinctive genus of Neotropical crickets under the name *Laranda* (Orthoptera: Grylloidea: Phalangopsidae). These crickets, which inhabit the Atlantic Forest of Brazil, are characterized by unique morphological and ecological adaptations, including dorsoventral flattening, dark coloration, and specialized genital structures (Desutter-Grandcolas 1994; Walker 1869).

After more than 150 years, this nomenclatural issue remained unnoticed until it was uncovered by Brazilian taxonomists through the Taxonomic Catalog of the Brazilian Fauna (Boeger & Valim 2025), a comprehensive collaborative database designed to organize and update the taxonomic knowledge of all animal groups in Brazil. As a result of ongoing expert curation and database integration, the homonymy between *Laranda* Kinberg, 1865 and *Laranda* Walker, 1869 was formally identified, prompting the necessary change in the cricket genus name to maintain nomenclatural stability and universality, as dictated by the ICZN.

This note addresses the type material and distinguishing features of both taxa to justify and implement the required name change for this cricket genus.

The present study involved a comprehensive literature review, including original descriptions (Kingberg 1865; Walker 1869), taxonomic revisions (Desutter-Grandcolas 1994), detailed consultation of the International Code of Zoolological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999), and extensive searches across international taxonomic databases, including the Orthoptera Species File (Cigliano *et al.* 2025) and the World Register of Marine Species (Ahyong *et al.* 2025). Nomenclatural type specimens were thoroughly analyzed to establish the necessary taxonomic and nomenclatural justifications for proposed changes.

Taxonomy

Senior Homonym: *Laranda* Kingberg, 1865

Taxonomic position (Read & Fauchald 2025)**:** Annelida: Polychaeta Grube,1850: Eunicida Berthold, 1827: Oenonidae Kingberg, 1865.

Diagnosis: Cephalic lobe entire or entire margin, with no appendages or eyes; parts of the lower lip thick, small, with rounded anterior margin, acuminate posteriorly; maxillae of the same pair equal: pair li, dentate in the middle, ungulate apex, edentulous; third root shorter than the usual two roots; maxilla of pair Ili narrow, dentate but not ungulate; pairs IIIi and IVi equal, ungulate; feet rounded lingula with pubescent setae and gills (Kingberg 1865).

Type species: *Laranda gracilis* Kingberg, 1865. Type material deposited at the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm (SMNH). Type locality: Atlantic Ocean, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Included species: *Laranda gracilis* Kingberg, 1865; *Laranda sulcata* Kingberg, 1865.

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Junior Homonym: *Laranda* Walker, 1869

Taxonomic position (Cigliano *et al*. 2025)**:** Arthropoda: Insecta: Polyneoptera: Orthoptera Olivier, 1789: Ensifera Chopard, 1921: Grylloidea Laicharting, 1781: Phalangopsidae Blanchard, 1845: Paragryllinae Desutter, 1987: Paragryllini Desutter, 1987.

Diagnosis: Body flat, especially the large abdomen. Tergites covered with short and dense setae; sternites glabrous. Male and female apterous. Legs short and strong. General color dark, legs or only the tibiae sometimes ochre or reddish-brown. Tergites with cuticular sculptures (Desutter-Grandcolas 1994).

Type species: *Laranda tibialis* Walker, 1869. Type material deposited at the deposited at Natural History Museum, London (NHMUK). Type locality: Brazil, Rio de Janeiro.

Included species: *Laranda annulata* Bolívar, 1890; *Laranda castanea* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994; *Laranda major* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994; *Laranda meridionalis* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994; *Laranda rogenhoferi* Saussure, 1878; *Laranda singularis* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994; *Laranda tibialis* Walker, 1869; *Laranda uai* Mews, 2008.

Nomenclatural Justification

The genus name *Laranda* Walker, 1869, is considered invalid because it is a junior homonym of *Laranda* Kingberg, 1865 (Polychaeta: Eunicida: Oenonidae). According to the ICZN (1999), a junior homonym cannot be used as a valid taxonomic name. Nevertheless, this name is currently acknowledged as a valid genus (Cigliano *et al*. 2025). There are no known junior synonyms for *Laranda* Walker, 1869, in the literature. To clearly distinguish it from *Laranda* Kingberg, 1865, we propose *Unacla* **nom. nov.** as a new name to replace *Laranda* Walker, 1869. The new name is formed by combining the native language Tupi word “una”, meaning black, with the suffix “-acla”, which is frequently used for paragrylline crickets.

Proposal

***Unacla* nom. nov. (Orthoptera: Phalangopsidae)**

Type species: *Unacla tibialis* Walker, 1869 **comb. nov.**

The included species and name combinations are as follows: *Unacla annulata* Bolívar, 1890 **comb. nov.** Brazil, São Paulo, Apiaí; *Unacla castanea* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994 **comb. nov.** Brazil, Espírito Santo, Santa Teresa; *Unacla major* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994 **comb. nov.** Brazil, Espírito Santo, Linhares; *Unacla meridionalis* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994 **comb. nov.** Brazil, Santa Catarina, Nova Teutonia; *Unacla rogenhoferi* Saussure, 1878 **comb. nov.** Brazil; *Unacla singularis* Desutter-Grandcolas, 1994 **comb. nov.** Brasil, São Paulo, Teodoro Sampaio; *Unacla tibialis* Walker, 1869 **comb. nov.** Brazil, Rio de Janeiro; *Unacla uai* Mews, 2008 **comb. nov.** Brazil, Minas Gerais, Viçosa.

This study resolved the 150-year-old zoological homonymy involving *Laranda* Kinberg, 1865 (Polychaeta), and *Laranda* Walker, 1869 (Orthoptera). In accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), the cricket genus *Laranda* Walker, 1869, being a junior homonym, is formally declared invalid. To ensure nomenclatural stability and universality, we officially recommend the use of *Unacla* **nom. nov.** as a replacement name for this Neotropical cricket genus. This action not only rectifies a long-standing nomenclatural issue but also provides an unambiguous name for the Orthoptera genus, facilitating future taxonomic and phylogenetic studies within Phalangopsidae: Paragryllinae.

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